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# VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 68, ISSUE NO. 4 MARCH 12, 2008 IT'S *YOUR* NEWSPAPER

## LEARNING TO PLAY, PLAYING TO LEARN

JONATHAN GIBBY, ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

**SKILLS TO LEARN -** Elias Bates, 3, plays with a toy truck during weekly "Parent and Baby Sessions" in bungalow 49 at Valley College. Elias has the opportunity to interact with children his age while his parents share tips and experiences with other adults regarding child rearing. See the full story on Page 2.

# Budget Cuts Slash Services

BY ELIZEDA BELTRAN
STAFF WRITER

Tutoring centers at Valley College are being forced to reduce the services they offer to students because of recent budget cuts.

"When we have a budget cut, that means that someway that's going to impact the students' access to the services," said Scott Weigand, director of the Writing Center. "That means we have to have fewer hours and less people on staff … You open the door and there's a line of people waiting to be tutored. So, there are ten or 15 people waiting outside and you can only afford four people or five people on staff."

All the tutoring labs, which include the Writing Center, Math Lab, the Learning Center and others have seen a 10 percent cut in their budgets.

The decrease in funding is a part of a chain reaction beginning with the state's deficit, the Los Angeles Community College District's own deficit, and then Valley's.

During a Valley board of trustees meeting March 4, LACCD Chancellor Marshall Drummond addressed the current economy and its impact. "It's not a good sign because the worst part of the science is for the people who had to go find some money to at least symbolically cut from some categorical programs that serve the students." For next year he expects the situation to get worse "unless some miracle happens."

Phyllis Yasuda, director of the Learning Center believes that "[student] success will probably decrease and the retention probably decrease as well."

Another contributor to the problem is that salaries for student workers increased by six percent

see *Budget* page 7

**What Does The College Budget Defecit Mean For Valley Students?**

- Tutoring centers on campus, such as the Writing Center and Math Lab, have had their hours cut, meaning less time to work with students.

- Retention rates for students could decrease, due to being disgouraged by unsatisfactory grades.

# *Budget and Retirement the Focus for Drummond*

BY KRISTEN BECKER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Budget cuts and the search for retiring Valley College President Tyree Wieder's replacement dominated the discussion during Chancellor Mark Drummond's March 4 visit to the campus.

"The district is in relatively good shape – we're paying attention to enrollment, we've revised expenditures, we trying to get ourselves organized and certainly we're taking the political part not to lose anymore than we have to," Drummond said. "But you've gotta understand every state agency, . . . everybody's out saying the same thing . . . We can't afford to take a nickel less because we aren't getting the job done now and the point is there's going to be a nickel less."

Higher enrollment numbers district wide provided extra funding, which could help to offset some of the proposed cuts, although if the enrollment numbers are down two years in a row, "your district-based budget will actually be reduced and that can be real painful," he explained. While he cited the district's attempts to cut costs by almost completely cutting out-of-state travel as well as having a closer scrutiny of district-wide hiring practices, Drummond admitted he expected the effects of the coming cuts to the state's community college budget to be "unpleasant, . . . maybe ugly."

In response to a question from the audience, Deputy Chancellor Adriana Barrera stated that the possibility of layoffs has not been discussed. She did, however explain the district's policy on new hires. While there is not a hiring freeze, the district is asking the college presidents to scrutinize any hiring requests before they are sent to the district. She said that these requests have dropped significantly in recent months.

Drummond referenced cuts that have already been made to "some categorical programs that serve the students that we most want to keep

see *Drummond* page 7

# Disabled Students to Benefit From State Grant

BY WILL REYES
EDITOR AT LARGE

The Valley College Disabled Students Program and Services (DSPS) department is preparing to caption more than 200 instructional videos and DVDs for hearing impaired students with a new $74,000 grant.

The California State Chancellor's office dispensed the grant to Valley's DSPS after receiving an application from them in January.

"We were very happy about receiving the funds because it makes materials better accessible to disabled students," said Steven Loving, a DSPS disability specialist at Valley. "That's something that's near and dear to our hearts."

The DSPS was notified of the award a month after submitting their application and according to Loving, they are already working to provide the benefits to disabled students with a variety of newly captioned materials.

"We were able to submit quite an extensive list of titles to these folks and an application to apply for the captioning funds," Loving said. "[The grant is from] … a statewide program that makes monies available to community colleges to allow them to produce video material and have it captioned, which is required under the Americans with Disabilities Act. [The act ensures] that videos used in the classroom are captioned for hearing impaired students."

Loving said the grant was a welcome addition to the DSPS department, which works with approximately 300 Valley students with a variety of physical, learning, medical or psychological disabilities. The funds allow the DSPS to not only add captions to instructional videos, but also upgrade some current materials.

"[The grant] is going to be extremely helpful," said Casey Nordberg, an instructional assistant who works for the DSPS. Nordberg said the grant allows older videos to be converted to DVD while they are being captioned. This ensures that the

see *DSPS* page 7

PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

**HELP IS ON THE WAY -** Valley College DSPS specialists Casey Nordberg, left, and Steven Loving will be busy with new projects to be captioned for their department thanks to a $74,000 grant. In addition to educational materials, many movies will be captioned as well.

PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

**A VOICE FOR THE SILENT -** Valley College student Tawnya Anigren has written a manuscript for a book called "Be Cool Speak Up." It urges young children to speak-up about child abuse in any form.

# Valley Student Tackles Abuse With Her Words

BY ELIZEDA BELTRAN
STAFF WRITER

Conceived in a bathtub during a rush of emotions about physical and psychological abuse, "Be Cool, Speak Up," is a children's book by a Valley College student that seeks to mentor children about bringing these issues to light.

Twanya Anigren, a nursing major, wrote the book when she could not contain her emotions about cases dealing with rape, and knowing that she could better the lives of others by sharing her experiences.

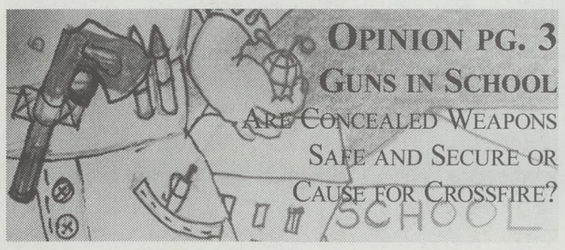
"I was physically, sexually, and mentally abused until I was in sixth grade by members of my family and my friends' family," said Anigren. "I had to witness my sister and brother also going through the same thing. That is the main reason why I wrote this book."

The book offers different scenarios and advises children how to deal with them, such as what to do when children are bullied in school, or when they feel uncomfortable with the stares of a neighbor.

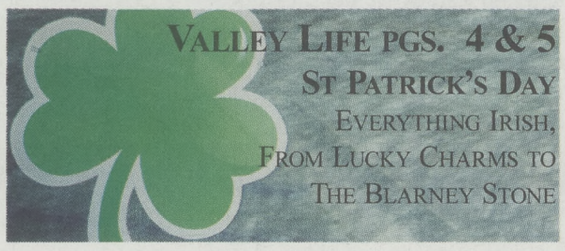
Although her book is not yet published, she is working with Random House to put her work on bookstore shelves soon.

The book was written for children, but the author hopes it

see *Speak Up* page 7

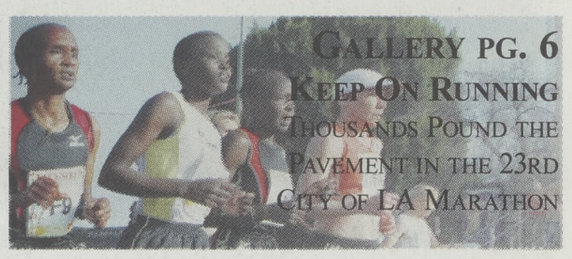



OPINION PG. 3
GUNS IN SCHOOL
ARE CONCEALED WEAPONS SAFE AND SECURE OR CAUSE FOR CROSSFIRE?



VALLEY LIFE PGS. 4 & 5
ST PATRICK'S DAY
EVERYTHING IRISH, FROM LUCKY CHARMS TO THE BLARNEY STONE

SPORTS PG. 5
SOFTBALL
MONARCHS DROP THE BALL IN LOSS TO CITRUS COLLEGE



GALLERY PG. 6
KEEP ON RUNNING
THOUSANDS POUND THE PAVEMENT IN THE 23RD CITY OF LA MARATHON

# Bungalow Transformed Into Resource For Local Families

BY ERIK MILLER
STAFF WRITER

Surrounded by the perpetual construction on campus and through a maze of old bungalows, the Family Resource Center is a hidden gem and safe haven for anyone in the community with pre-school age children.

Wednesday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. in Bungalow 49, the center holds hour-long "Parent and Baby Sessions," a free service available to parents with children ranging in age from newborns to two and a half years.

Marni Roosevelt, the director of special projects for the Child Development Department, said that program began in an ordinary classroom on campus when the department ran across the bungalow in disrepair.

"Nobody was using it, it was a mess. We were able to put a lot of work into it," Roosevelt said as parents arrived for a Wednesday morning session.

During these meetings, parents network with others and share their experiences. They ask for advice about childcare from the child development instructors who supervise the sessions. While parents learn, relax and make new friends, their children have a safe place to play. This kind of service usually costs several hundred dollars a year, but participants in this program don't even have to pay for parking.

"He did all of his firsts here. His fist rollover, his first sit, his first crawl. Everything, it was here," said Denise Mendez, a former Valley student who brings her seven-month-old son, Joaquin, weekly. "He was two months old when I first brought him."

Mendez says that she found out about the center after she moved on from Valley and a friend showed her a flyer advertising the sessions.

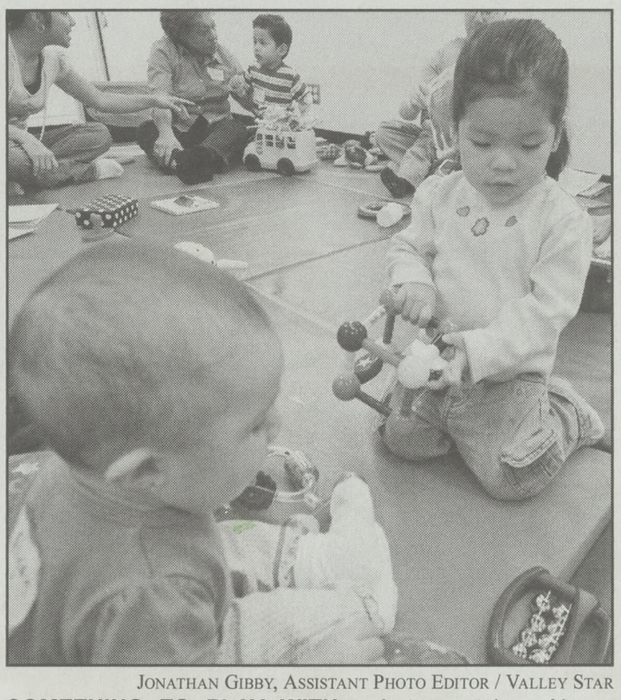
Parents who attend the sessions can also take advantage of other services offered at the center. A library stocked with books and magazines about parenting techniques is at their disposal, as is a private area for breastfeeding and storing milk. The center's clothing exchange lets parents trade the shower gift their baby outgrew for something that will fit.

"They grow up so fast. How many times can a child wear this before he can't fit into it anymore?" Roosevelt said, looking through a bin and holding up an infant's jumpsuit.

After junior outgrows the outfit mom or dad borrowed, they can bring it back to the center and exchange it for the next size.

During the hour, instructors with the Child Development Department supervise and answer questions about growing children. Parent's concerns range from proper feeding

see *Sessions* page 7



JONATHAN GIBBY, ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

**SOMETHING TO PLAY WITH -** A toy catches Alyson Urrutia's, right, attention at the start of Valley College's weekly program intended to educate both child and parent.

# *Doubled-Up Bubbles Bring Nothing But Election Trouble*

BY JAMES BENNETT
OPINION EDITOR

A panel of state, city, and county legislators discussed the problems faced by voters in the California presidential primary elections during the Joint Informational Hearing Friday, March 7 at the Ronald Reagan State Building Auditorium. Topics included irregularly widespread ballot shortages and the disenfranchisement of "decline to state" voters, colloquially referred to as "double bubble trouble."

Chaired by Democrat Sens. Ron Calderon, Jenny Oropeza, and Assemblyman Curren Price, the hearing acquired testimony from a several state and county officials; including California Secretary of State Deborah Bowen, and current and immediate past Registrar /County Clerk Dean Logan and Conny McCormack, respectively.

"There was an enormous amount of confusion ... So much so that when I came to my own polling place, poll workers were turning decline to state voters away," Calderon commented.

"Double Bubble Trouble" resulted from California's, in the words of Conny McCormack, "slightly ajar" primary system. Until 1998, California was home to closed primaries, meaning that a voter's party affiliation determined their voting eligibility. For example, a Democrat couldn't vote for a Republican candidate or visa versa.

The state discarded that restriction in 2000, implementing completely open primaries and thus allowing anyone to vote for anyone so long as they were registered. However, neither national party approved of this decision and sued the state, claiming the election committee overstepped its bounds and unconstitutionally revoked their power to choose who votes in their primaries. The suit made its way to the Supreme Court, which ruled in favor of the parties.

"We, as election officials, must ensure that every voter is aware of all their rights," Bowen stated. "We may have to twist ourselves into pretzels to do it, but it's what we gotta do."

In an effort to keep primaries as open as possible whilst not infringing on a party's rights, the state enacted the current "slightly ajar" primary system. Within this system, a political party may allow voters of specific party affiliations to vote in their primary. In the February 2008 primary election, the Democratic National Party and the American Independent Party opened their California ballots to "Decline to State" voters.

Within the confines of the voting booth, DTS voters were made to select an extra ballot bubble. The extra bubble defined their ballot as either voting in the Democratic Primary, or the American Independent Primary, but it confused many DTS voters and poll

see *Bubble* page 7

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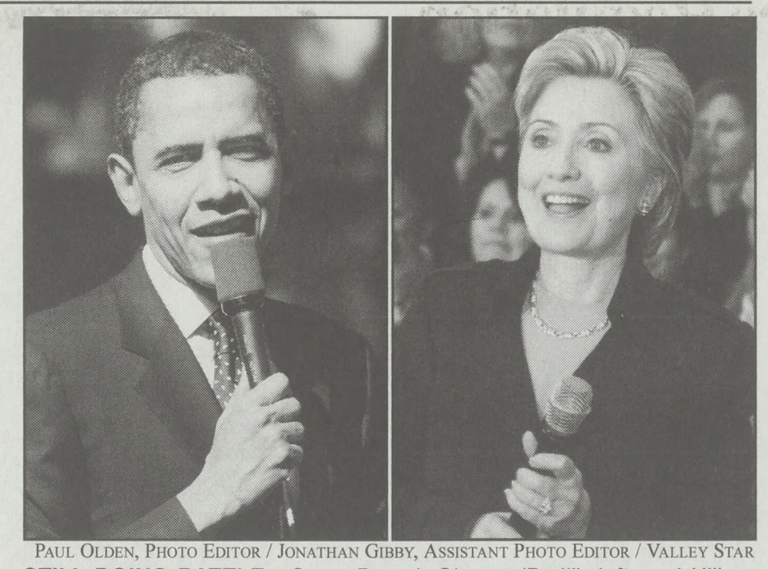

PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / JONATHAN GIBBY, ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

**STILL DOING BATTLE -** Sens. Barack Obama (D- Ill), left, and Hillary Clinton (D-NY) move on after Tuesday's Mississippi Democratic primary.

# Democratic Race too Close to Call

BY KRISTEN BECKER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

After Sen. Hillary Clinton's victories in the Texas, Ohio and Rhode Island Democratic primaries, which, like Super Tuesday, were supposed to decide the nominee, the Democratic race may not be decided until the Pennsylvania primary on April 22 or later.

The pledged delegate count remained virtually the same despite Clinton's victories (Illinois Sen. Barack Obama won Vermont and the Texas caucus as well as Tuesday's Mississippi primary). The contest is so close because the Democratic Party awards delegates proportionally based on how many votes each candidate gets. After his victory in Wyoming's caucus Saturday, Obama still leads Clinton by 123 delegates, according to realclearpolitics.com.

"No matter what happens tonight, we have nearly the same delegate lead as we did this morning, and we are on our way to winning this nomination," Obama said in a March 4 speech to his supporters in San Antonio.

Because the race remains so close between the two Democrats, new attention is being paid to the delegates from Michigan and Florida. As punishment for holding their presidential primaries before Feb. 4, the Democratic National Committee stripped the states of their delegates. The DNC and the state's governors are floating the idea of "do-overs" for both states that would allow the delegates to be seated at the convention. Holding vote-by-mail primaries is one of the ideas being considered.

"The Democratic Nominee will be determined in accordance with party rules, and out of respect for the presidential campaigns and the states that did not violate party rules, we are not going to change the rules in the middle of the game," DNC Chair Howard Dean said in a press release.

While the identity of the eventual Democratic presidential nominee is still unclear, Arizona Senator John McCain's victories in Texas, Ohio, Vermont and Rhode Island gave him enough delegates to clinch the Republican nomination.

"I have never believed I was destined be President. I don't believe anyone is pre-destined to lead America. But I do believe we are born with responsibilities to the country that has protected our God-given rights, and the opportunities they afford us . . .," McCain said his victory speech. "I owe [my country] the meaning that service to America has given my life, and the sense that I am part of something greater than myself, part of a kinship of ideals that have always represented the last, best hope of mankind."

He also received the endorsement of President George W. Bush, who has largely avoided commenting on the presidential race, in a joint appearance at the White House March 5.

Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, who promised that he would stay in the race until the convention or one candidate won enough delegates to win the nomination, officially dropped out after the primary results were announced. Ron Paul (R-Texas) has also hinted that he, too, would soon drop his bid for president.

While admitting in a message to supporters that "victory in the conventional, political sense is not available in the presidential race," Paul told his supporters, "Let us hope that we can one day look back and say that this campaign was a significant first step that signaled a change in direction for our country."

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# ONE WAY OR *ANOTHER*

EACH WEEK, THE VALLEY STAR EXAMINES AN ISSUE FROM TWO SIDES.
THIS WEEK: **SHOULD STUDENTS WITH CONCEALED WEAPONS PERMITS CARRY ON CAMPUS?**

## Seek Safety in Gun-bers

BY SHANNON MCHUGH
STAFF WRITER

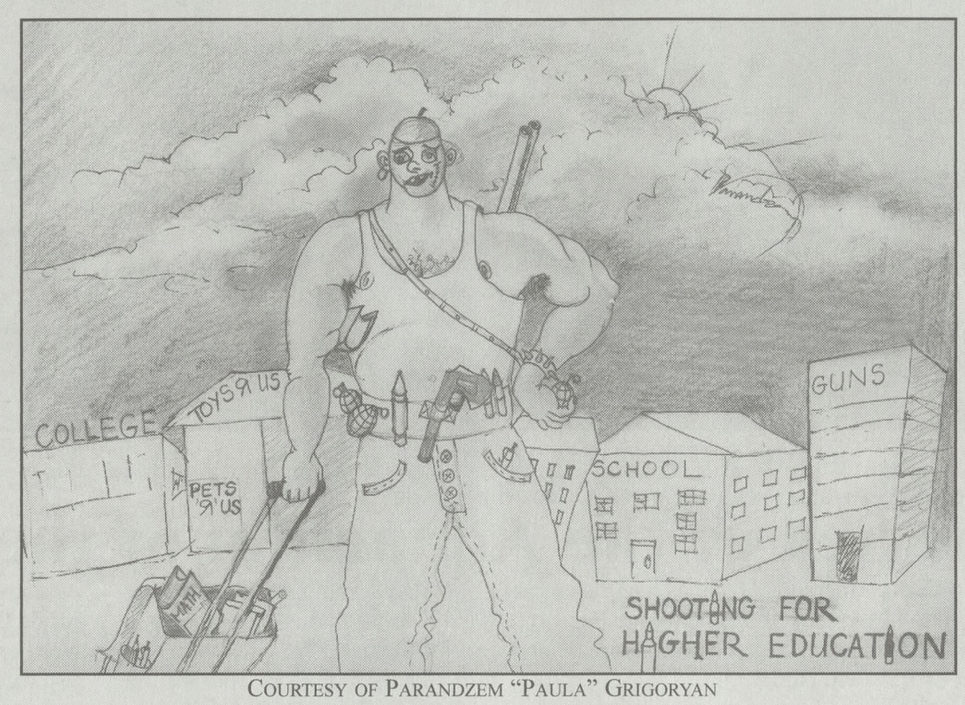
Since the horrific Columbine High School massacre of 1999, there have been more than 10 fatal shootings on school campuses, and it seems that every day there is another. Students in the United States are more afraid of going to school than ever before, and a large number of them are beginning to feel that the only way they can stay safe on campus is if they carry their own concealed weapon in the event of a worst-case scenario.

Students all over the country are beginning to speak with their state legislatures about lifting the current gun ban on most college campuses, a ban that was initiated with the belief that owning a handgun legally means having the right to use them legally in any circumstance, which is untrue. Arizona is one of almost 15 states that will consider a bill that would allow people 21 years or older to carry a concealed weapon on campus with a permit.

Some states already allow at least faculty to carry concealed weapons. "Isn't it interesting that Utah and Oregon are the only two states that allows faculty to carry guns on campus," said Larry Pratt of Gun Owners of America in April 2007. "And isn't it interesting that you haven't read about any school or university shootings in Utah or Oregon? Why not? Because criminals don't like having their victims shoot back at them," "That's why the American people want an end to this ineffective gun ban."

A campus shooting that took place at Virginia Appalachian School of Law in 2002 is an example of quick reaction being able to save lives. Peter Odighizuwa, a 43-year-old, disgruntled former student walked on the campus on Jan. 16 and opened fire, killing three people just moments before students ran to their cars and grabbed their personal firearms and were able to neutralize Odighizuwa before he was able to kill any more people. This was not the fate of those involved in the Virginia Tech shooting last April. Many analysts feel that if weapons could be concealed on campus, the fatalities would have been much fewer than the 33 deaths with the implemented gun ban.

Concealed weapon permits are not easy to obtain, just like every person who wants to carry a gun cannot just go to a store and pick one up. There are tests and research conducted that include, but are not limited to: proficiency with a firearm, mental and physical aptitude and background checks for misdemeanors, felonies and past crime records. They also do not legalize the use of the firearm at any public time, only the legality to carry one concealed.




COURTESY OF PARANDZEM "PAULA" GRIGORYAN

Since there is no way to effectively get rid of unwanted guns that are brought on campus with the intent to cause harm, it is in the people's best interest to have a way to protect themselves. Earning a concealed weapon permit is a safe way to avoid ever falling victim to an inevitably bad situation. Everyone wants to feel protected and secure, and if a qualified person believes that carrying a weapon with the knowledge that they cannot use it aids them in that feeling, there should not be a problem with repealing the gun ban on most college campuses.

## Concealed Catastrophe

BY JAMES BENNETT
OPINION EDITOR

Checklist of classroom supplies: Notebook, required and supplemental texts, writing utensil, and .357 magnum. Wait a minute; handguns don't take notes or pay attention to lecture, nor do they guess C on scantron forms or flirt with sexy coeds during study sessions. Firearms have nothing to do with education, despite their departmental proximity to alcohol and tobacco. The hubbub revolves around concealed weapons permits, and whether or not students possessing the aforementioned should be allowed to tote their firearm phallus onto campus and into classrooms.

Firstly, the contention proposed by gun advocates generally states that in order to get a concealed weapon permit a person must be proficient with their weapon and mentally stable; which would be fine in a perfect world. However, a world where students even consider bringing weapons to class is markedly less than perfect.

April 16 2007: Seung-Hui Cho guns down 32 students at Virginia Tech in the deadliest school shooting in history. In response to this, the feds significantly strengthened the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, a system designed to keep handguns out of the hands of villains. Furthermore, the massacre prompted Virginia and many other states to revamp gun sales regulations to include a mental fitness requirement. Basically, unless you're completely sane, you're not supposed to have a gun.

So how is it that on February 14, 2008 Steven Kazmierczak strolled into a Geology lecture at Northern Illinoin University and wasted five students with a legally-purchased shotgun and pair of legally-purchased handguns? Kazmierczak was no stranger to the shrink's office, who according to the AP, spent more than a year at an alternative high school for children suffering from mental illness. Moreover, he underwent a year of psychiatric hospitalization for refusing to take his medication and cutting himself. The downward spiral continues: According to Kazmierczak's former girlfriend, he had been taking a mood-stabilizing cocktail of Prozac, Xanax, and Ambien; drugs to treat depression, anxiety, and insomnia, respectively.

How was Steven Kazmierczak allowed to buy guns legally? This guy probably shouldn't have been allowed to drive legally, let alone possess several semiautomatic weapons.

Even if we rule out psychotic people buying guns due to lackluster background check enforcement, concealed weapons wouldn't save lives anyway. "You can never protect against this kind of incident," commented Dana Schrad, executive director of the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police. "I have my concerns that, had there been a number of people who had been in that classroom with guns additional persons [may have been] killed as a result of poor judgment."

Schrad isn't alone in that view. According to Jon Vernick, co-director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research stated, "The best science that we have says concealed carry laws do not save lives."

## Irregular Race Regulation

■ **How is it that a slower runner wins the race?**

BY SHANNON MCHUGH
STAFF WRITER

Do you remember having races with your friends on the playground as a child? If not, lets pretend you do. Picture this: You and your three friends are lined up behind a crack in the sidewalk. The four of you have made the rules clear that you will run all the way to the monkey bars and back, and the first person to make it to the finish line wins, no exceptions. In this memory do you remember establishing a rule that the girls in the race would get a head start? I certainly don't remember that from my playground days.

Why is it, then, that the City of Los Angeles Marathon has installed the rule that women will get significant starting time over the men? In a world where women have burned their bras and fought against the glass ceiling, it seems that a head start in a race for thousands of dollars would seem like charity and that it would be insulting to any woman who has trained that hard for her moment to prove herself.

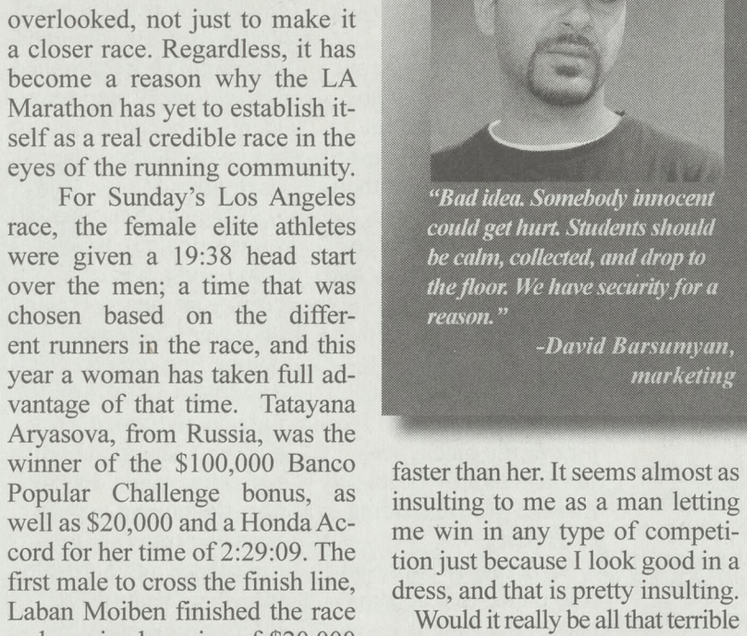
The 23rd annual LA Marathon that took place on Sunday, March 2 has brought back the issue. This particular race has become one of the most controversial marathons in the world, based on its format that gives women a significant head start over men. What was meant to be a simple race to the finish has become a battle of the sexes in the Los Angeles area that seems to take away from the initial point of the race we have all grown up understanding: whoever runs fastest wins.

The marathons centered in other cities such a London and New York City also are inhabitants of the female elite head start rule, but their intentions are not as deplorable as those of the LA Marathon. The idea in other cities is to promote the female race so that it is not as overlooked, not just to make it a closer race. Regardless, it has become a reason why the LA Marathon has yet to establish itself as a real credible race in the eyes of the running community.

For Sunday's Los Angeles race, the female elite athletes were given a 19:38 head start over the men; a time that was chosen based on the different runners in the race, and this year a woman has taken full advantage of that time. Tatayana Aryasova, from Russia, was the winner of the $100,000 Banco Popular Challenge bonus, as well as $20,000 and a Honda Accord for her time of 2:29:09. The first male to cross the finish line, Laban Moiben finished the race and received a prize of $20,000 and a Honda Accord as well.

Granted, Moiben still got a pretty great deal winning a new car and earning more cash than some people make in a year, but it still does not seem fair that because Aryasova started nearly 20 minutes earlier, she is entitled to more earnings than a man who ran faster than her. It seems almost as insulting to me as a man letting me win in any type of competition just because I look good in a dress, and that is pretty insulting.

Would it really be all that terrible to just go back to the basics and run like we did when we were kids? I mean, sure, the races may be much shorter and you would always wind up with sand in your socks, but you would not end up being segregated. Everything would be equal again and you can all could go back to being friends playing on the swings when you finish.

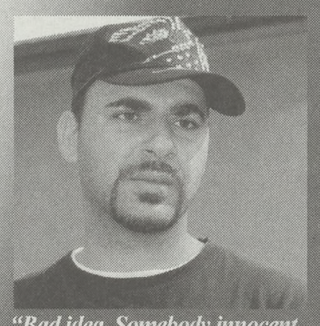



JOHNATHAN GIBBY, ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

## CAMPUS View

photos by Parandzem "Paula" Grigoryan / Valley Star

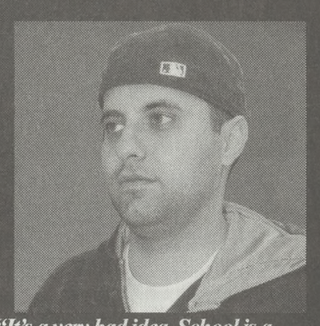
**How do you feel about concealed guns on campus?**



*"Bad idea. Somebody innocent could get hurt. Students should be calm, collected, and drop to the floor. We have security for a reason."*
*-David Barsumyan, marketing*

*"No guns on campus. Mace maybe. Guns are dangerous and don't belong on campus. The only people with guns should be security people."*
*-Geri Parker, real estate investment*

*"It's dangerous. Maybe one day they're depressed and they decide to shoot someone, or think someone is going to attack them who's actually innocent."*
*-Gabriela Herrera cardiology*



*"It's a very bad idea. School is a place to learn and educate. People that bring guns to class need psychiatric help, I mean, guns are used to rob banks, not learn."*
*Roy Wally, business*

## Problematic Progressive Papal Policy

BY JAMES BENNETT
OPINION EDITOR

The Catholic Church isn't a lot of things. For instance, it's not a water park, or automobile, nor is it a pane of glass or an aborigine. However, if there's one thing the Catholic Church certainly is, it's old. A millennium and a half ago the Church released their most interesting piece of literature; the seven deadly sins.

The whole deal with the seven deadly sins is supposedly if someone dies with an un-repented or absolved deadly sin pending, their soul is fast tracked to Hell to partake of eternal damnation. The original magnificent seven consist of (my favorite) lust, gluttony, avarice, sloth, anger, envy, and pride. That list remained unchanged, that is, until last Sunday.

Published in the Vatican's newspaper L'Osservatore Romano, the new sins include genetic modification, human experiments, polluting the environment, social injustice, causing poverty, financial gluttony and taking drugs. The new sins, clearly directed at an increasingly secularized world, seem to be notably more secular themselves. The release of these new sins have a political air about them, resembling a bill more than a decree straight from His Holiness.

The real problem with these new mortal sins is the discrepancy between globally, secularish motivators and Church-centric motivators. Examining the Nuevo-sins reveals the problem clearly. Taking drugs, not much explanation needed on this one; although, the lack of precise wording is disconcerting. Does taking drugs include prescription drugs, or only illegal drugs? Illegal according to whom? Regardless, the intent of this deadly sin is fairly clear and benign; it's like an afternoon cartoon-interrupting PSA from the Pope.

Financial gluttony is also self-explanatory. Seeking great wealth is unchristian, live humbly like Jesus. Causing poverty doesn't need excessive evaluation; be kind, the golden rule, whatever. Social injustice and polluting the environment are great additions: don't shaft thy urban population and don't drive thy escalade or dump thy toxins in yon river.

Hark, what ho? No genetic modification or human experiments? These deadly sins effectively rule out stem cell research and other forms of embryonic study. It's just like a 500-page congressional bill. At first glance, it appears to divert funding from the Cruelty to Animals fund, a fund that specializes in being cruel to animals, and sending the dollars to aid blind orphans with hearts of gold. However, in 9-point font, on page 437, it turns out the bill also includes drilling for oil in everyone's backyard and smelting gold family heirlooms to erect a giant golden statue of Adolf Hitler in the middle of Hancock Park.

The buzz about Pope Ratzinger (now Benedict XVI) when he dawned his pointy hat for the first time was that he was conservative, and strived to return the Church to its classic values. However, with confessions down 60 percent in Italy, he may have rethought his papal agenda. There are few Catholic tenets more widely known than the seven deadly sins; and his doubling of them hardly seems conservative.

If the new papal trend is to bury backwards thinking, science-inhibiting declarations within a delicious religious omelet of progressive social influence; I'd rather get my guiding values from Denny's.

# VALLEY LIFE

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BY WILL REYES

***THE ACADEMY AWARDS***
BY SHANNON MCHUGH

***NOW BACK TO YOUR REGULAR PROGRAM***
BY BRAD TAYLOR

## LAVC EVENTS

**Wednesday, March 12**

LAVC Career Day (Job Fair, Workshops and College/Majors Fair) @ 10 am-2 pm (Monarch Square/various campus locations) – Contact: Academic Affairs (818) 947-2326

**Thursday, March 13**

LAVC Town Hall Meeting (Topic: "Summer Construction Projects Update") @ 1:30 pm (Cafeteria Conference Room) – Contact: President's Office (818) 947-2321

LAVC Theater Arts Lysistrata @ 8 pm (Horseshoe Theatre); Admission: $15 General, $10 Students/Seniors – Contact: Theater Arts (818) 947-2790

**Friday, March 14**

Last day to turn in an LAVC Foundation Scholarship application

SPRING 2008 Graduation Petition Deadline

LAVC Theater Arts Lysistrata @ 8 pm (Horseshoe Theatre); Admission: $15 General, $10 Students/Seniors – Contact: Theater Arts (818) 947-2790

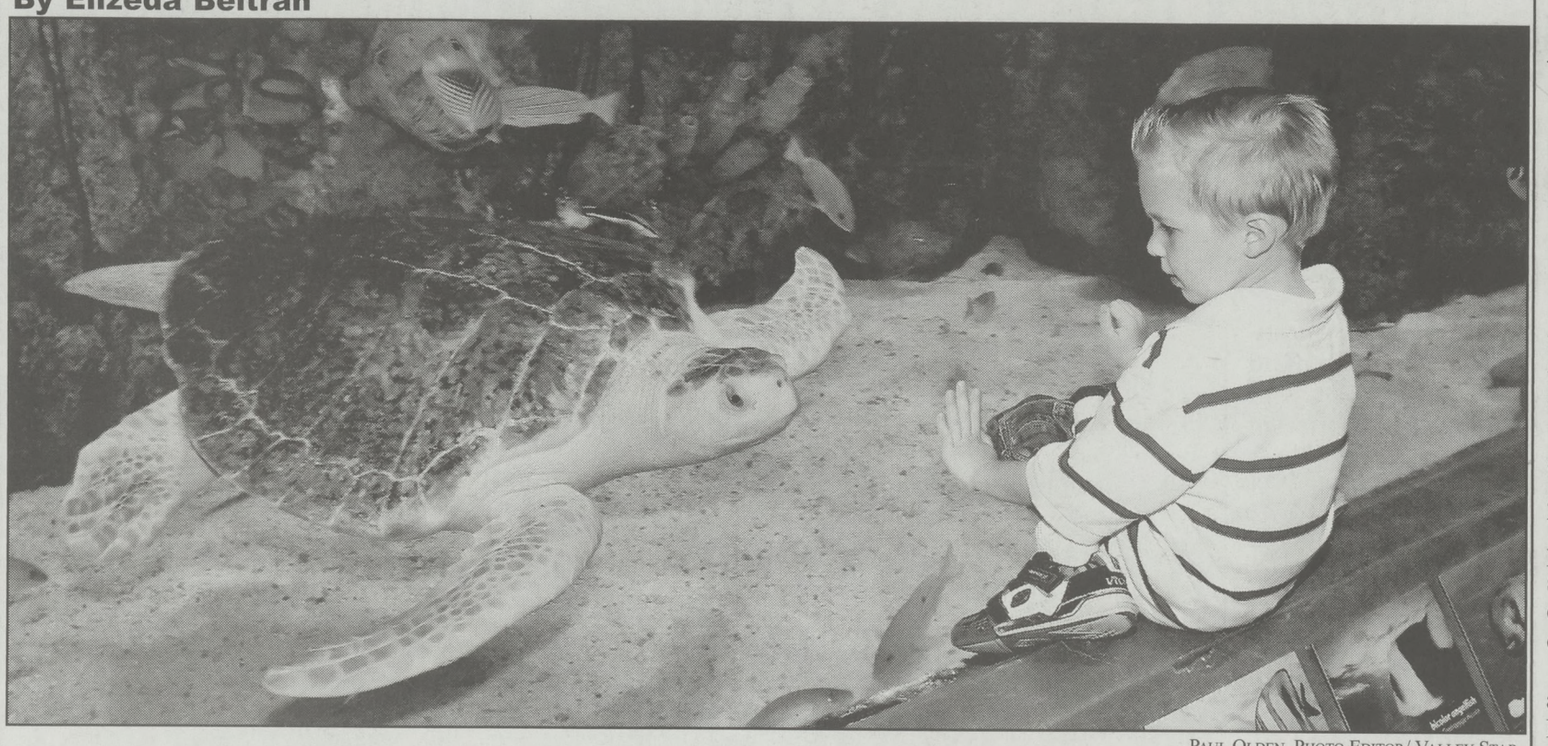
**Saturday, March 15**

LAVC Theater Arts Lysistrata @ 8 pm (Horseshoe Theatre); Admission: $15 General, $10 Students/Seniors – Contact: Theater Arts (818) 947-2790

Sunday, March 16, 2008
Valley Symphony Orchestra Concert – Annual Chamber Music Concert @ 2:30 pm (Music 106); Admission: $15-$25 – Contact: Valley Symphony Orchestra (818) 778-5609

LAVC Concert Choir Concert (Philharmonic Choir, College Choir, Vocal Jazz) @ 7 pm (Mainstage Theater); Admission: TBA – Contact: Music Dept (818) 947-2347

**Valley Travel**
**By Elizeda Beltran**



PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR/ VALLEY STAR
**LET'S BE FRIENDS** -The Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach is the perfect place to introduce children to the denizens of the sea. This youngster is getting an up close look at an Olive Ridley Sea Turtle.

# Under the Sea at the Aquarium of the Pacific

If you are looking for a different atmosphere – one that doesn't include traffic or skyscrapers or humans, you could travel to another planet, or you can visit the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach.

With three main galleries and two outdoor sections, the aquarium offers visitors two floors of glass tanks thriving with aquatic life that will make you feel like you have been submerged in the deepest oceans of the world.

I first visited the Tropical Pacific Gallery near the main entrance. The gallery represents the Island of Palau and houses coral, fish, seahorses, and many more.

The tropical reef habitat, part of the Pacific gallery, is the largest exhibit in the aquarium with more than 1,000 colorful animals with memorable names like the emperor angelfish, the wedge Picasso triggerfish, Napoleon wrasse and the blue devil.

One of my favorite parts of the tropical gallery was the colorful sex change exhibit, where hermaphroditic fish like the azure demoiselle, starts life as a female and turns into a male. You may also enjoy the seahorse section, where the weedy sea dragon horses and leafy sea horses live up to their names.

To complete your Pacific trip, pass through the soft coral tunnel and head to the coral station where you can touch starfish and live coral if you so desire, and yes, they are slimy.

After this, I stopped at the Southern California/ Baja Gallery, which represents the California coast that extends from Oregon to Mexico. I found myself surrounded by eels, sharks and sea lions.

The sharks meander with their predatory looks, but from behind the glass they do not look that frightening. The aquarium also has two shark eggs, one from a shell shark and the other from a horn shark that will hatch in November 2008.

If you want to touch any of nine types of sharks, like the bull shark and the sand tiger shark, visit the Shark Lagoon, part of the outdoor explorer cove adjacent to the Baja gallery. I decided to keep my hands to myself.

Once in the cove, you can also go to the Ray Touchpool, and do as the name indicates. Or you could buy nectar and head to the Lorikeet Forest, and feed the Australian birds.

When you are done with the outdoor adventure, climb back inside the building and visit the Northern Pacific Gallery, where you can see the giant Pacific octopus, otters and diving birds.

There were a lot of show animals in this section, especially diving birds like the tufted puffin and the crested auklet. The sea otters were playful. After almost being hunted to extinction in the 1800s by hunters who killed them for their fur, their numbers are increasing because they are a protected species.

Visitors can watch two 3D films, "A Fish Story" and "Monsters of the Abyss," but first pay a visit to the animals that inspired the films.

Tickets are $20.95 and the aquarium is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. everyday. Adult tickets online are five dollars cheaper.

**On Campus**

# *Food, Chess Take Over Club Day*

BRAD TAYLOR
MANAGING EDITOR

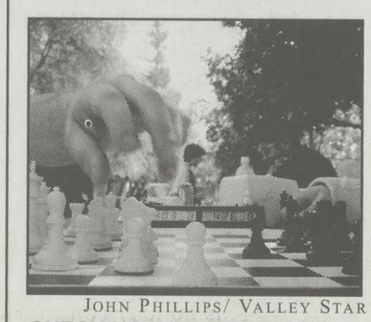
Monarch Square played host to Valley College's first Club Day of the spring semester Wednesday and it was food that took center stage.

Walking through the rows of club booths was like running a gauntlet; students were bombarded with signs, loud hip hop music and people shouting about why they should buy their food or join their clubs. Unlike past Club Days, this one was full of aggression.

"Yes, we can have a more accountable government," said Democracy Matters member Andrea Barrera as she held up a sign saying, "$ should not equal power." She added "There is hope for true democracy."

Barrera was not alone in her quest for change. CalPirg members did their best to recruit students to their causes of fighting hunger and beach clean-ups. The hunger fight was rather ironic as there were rows of food on every table.

The Chess Club seemed too distracted with their four tables full of chess games to even solicit new members, while the endlessly annoying "Free Movie Tickets" guy assaulted anyone who got close enough to hear him.



JOHN PHILLIPS/ VALLEY STAR
**CHECKING FOR NEW MATES-** Valley College Chess Club members recruit new players by challenging passers-by to a friendly match during Club Day on March 5.

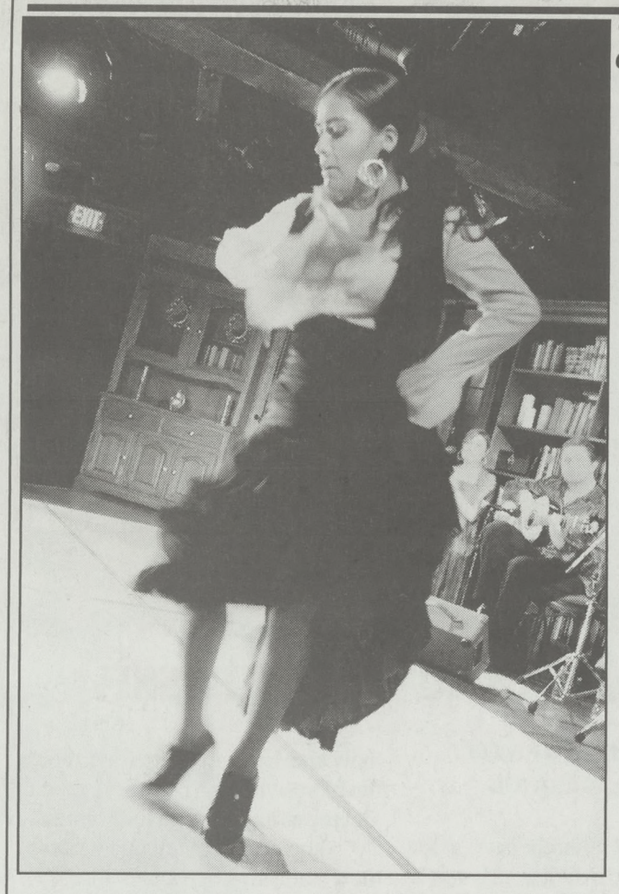
"We are trying to get students more involved with under-served communities," said M.E.Ch.A. member Joe Sanchez.

For all the bluster and food, there seemed to be very little student attendance; the club members vastly out numbered curious onlookers. But some clubs took a more relaxed position and just wanted to get news of their events out to the public.

"Our open mic night is every other Wednesday at 5pm in Monarch Square," said English Club president Andy Alcaraz. "We already have some professors who want to perform."

The clubs were more than eager to sell food to hungry students – tostadas, hot dogs, nachos and pineapple upside down cake were just a sample of all the treats that lined Monarch Square. By the end of the afternoon, I was hoping there would be a fitness club table.

Students wanting to know more about the clubs offered or to start their own at Valley can go to the Associated Student Union office for a complete listing.



JONATHAN GIBBY, ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR/ VALLEY STAR
**DANCE-** Paloma Rios dances at the Fountain Theatre's "Forever Flamenco," which features performances the first and third Sundays of every month.

**City Spotlight**

# "Forever Flamenco" at Fountain Theatre

JONATHAN GIBBY
ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Hollywood's inhabitants and frequent visitors know the golden rule that a small venue usually carries just as much talent. However, this rule does not prove true when considering the caliber of talent harvested at The Fountain Theatre.

It's rich menu of musical acts and drama dive deep into the diverse culture of this city's eclectic people and present it on stage for all to see. On the first and third Sunday of every month, the sounds of "Forever Flamenco" can be heard in the intimate 80-seat theatre. Ben Bradley and Deborah Lawlor currently produce the Fountain's bimonthly interpretation of the complex musical and cultural tradition of Flamenco that was started centuries ago by the Andalusian, Islamic, Sephardic, and Gypsy people.

There are two main components – song and dance. Early pioneers were not formally trained and relied solely on their ears to produce melodies, which have led to its unique harmonies and unusual dissonances. There is no room in the song for mechanical musicians who count beats; instead, much like jazz or the blues, performers simply fit loosely into the groove, adding to its fluidity.

The highly-expressive solo dance that accompanies the song is known for its rhythmic stomping of the feet and sweeping of the arms. Dancers like cast member Paloma Rios have spent a considerable amount of time studying flamenco in its thriving mecca, Spain. Though much time is spent practicing the form, the dances are not choreographed. No two performances are identical because they are improvised along the palo or rhythm.

For just about the same price of a movie ticket and a box of popcorn, you can experience "Forever Flamenco." This compelling opportunity to witness an art form of passion and grace, created by a shunned and nomadic people displays how the human experience can translate great turbulence and hardship into sheer beauty. For information regarding show times and tickets, contact The Fountain Theatre (323) 663-1525 or www.fountaintheatre.com.

**Critic's Notebook**
**By Brad Taylor**

# *Superman is still going strong at 70*

With America caught in the endless primary debates, rising gas prices, immigration battles and a coming recession, Superman is quietly celebrating his 70th birthday, and the world has never needed him more.

The Man of Steel made his debut in "Action Comics" number one in 1938, and since that day, he has become an international phenomenon who rivals Mickey Mouse as the face of American pop culture.

Created by Jewish immigrants Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, the hero has come to embody the core values of America, and has appeared in thousands of comics. Superman has appeared on radio, film, TV, video games and just about every form of modern media. He is regarded as the first superhero and set the stage for Batman, Wonder Woman and Spider-Man.

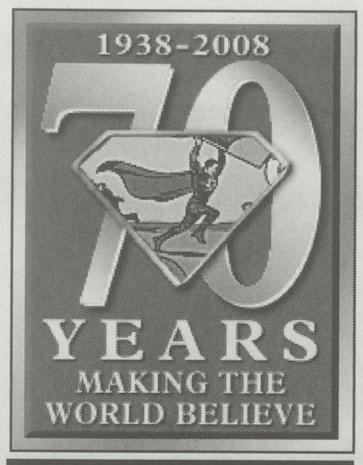
DC Comics pit Superman against aliens, robots, monsters, and even Adolf Hitler in his early years. The American hero fought the good fight during the Second World War and cemented his spot as a true legend next to Uncle Sam himself.

However, even Superman was not safe from the out of control propaganda machine of the 40s; the Fleischer-studio cartoon "Japoteurs" had the Man of Steel busting some very over-the-top Japanese spies trying to steal a bomb and destroy America.

Superman's influence can be seen all across our campus with students wearing that "S" logo on T-shirts, hats, bags and car windows. Much like the American flag, the "S" shield is recognized worldwide and conjures up visions of the red, blue and gold hero flying across a cityscape, off to save the day.

The legend of Superman gets re-energized every decade with new faces, but keeping the same values and optimism that makes him so endurable.

In a country torn by immigration issues, it is important to note that our best loved hero is himself an illegal alien searching for acceptance in a new world.




**To Read the Full Story- Go to**

**www.lavalleystar.com**

## Think Transfer!

Guarantee your admission to a UC by participating in a UC Transfer Admission Guarantee Program. For program information, qualifications and applications visit the Career/ Transfer Center, Adm. 126, or call (818) 947-2646.

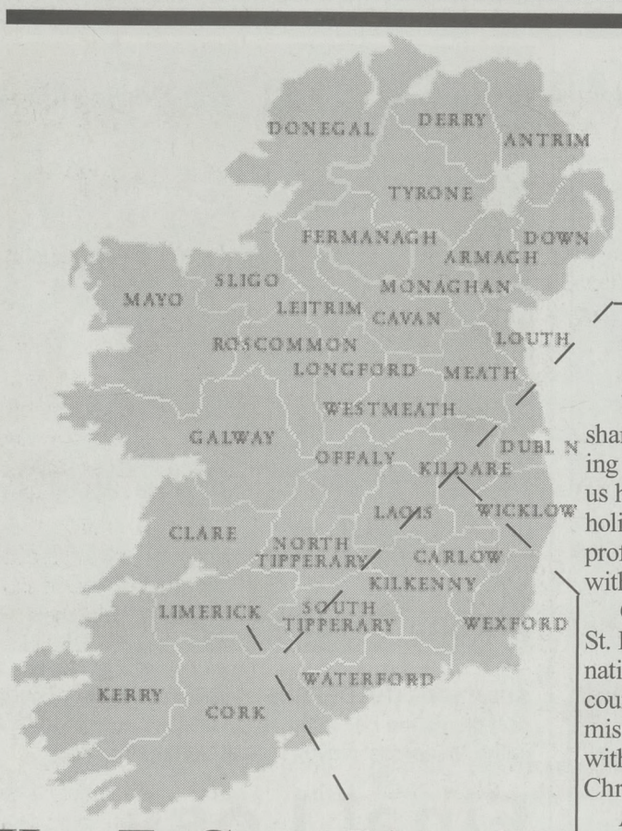
Thursday, March 13
CSU Los Angeles Rep 10am-1pm
Undecided Major/Career Workshop 5:30pm-6:30pm

Friday, March 14
TAP Application deadline
Spring 2008 graduation petition deadline

Monday, March 17
How to Transfer Workshop 5:30pm-6:30pm

Tuesday, March 18
CSU Northridge Rep 10am-1pm and 5pm-7pm

# Everyone's Irish On St. Patrick's Day




## How To Get to Limerick

It is generally taken to be a reference to the County of Limerick in Ireland (particularly the Maigue Poets), and may derive from an earlier form of nonsense verse parlour game which traditionally included a refrain that ended "Come all the way up to Limerick?" (referring to Limerick, Ireland)The first line of a limerick traditionally introduces a person and a place, with the place appearing at the end of the first line and therefore establishing the rhyme scheme for the second and fifth lines. The rhyme scheme is usually AABBA. In early limericks, the last line was often essentially a repeat of the first line, although this is no longer customary. Example:

St. Patricks Day

St. Patricks Day is here.

Soon a rainbow will appear.

I like St. Patricks Day.

I just want to shout hooray .

This holiday comes once a year!

## What's In a Name?

You have all seen the green hat and shamrock on your March calendar, marking St. Patrick's Day, but not many of us have taken the time to learn what the holiday means. The answer is more profound than glasses brimming with beer.

Celebrated around the globe, St. Patrick's Day is an Irish national holiday that honors the country's patron saint, a British missionary who is credited with converting the Irish to Christianity.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 34.7 million U.S. residents claim Irish ancestry, and nothing reflects the day's appeal than the New York St. Patrick's Day Parade. It does not only bring out kilted skirts, and the pipe organs down Fifth Avenue, but also unite Irish and non-Irish spectators in the festivities.

Most of St. Patrick's life is shrouded in uncertainty, but it is known that he was born in Great Britain near the end of the fourth century. He was captured as a slave at the age of 16 by a group of Irish rebels who sold him to a local chieftain.

He lived in Ireland working as a shepherd, where he spent his days up on a mountain, isolated from human contact. He claimed thatduring this time he began to find refuge in God by praying to him.

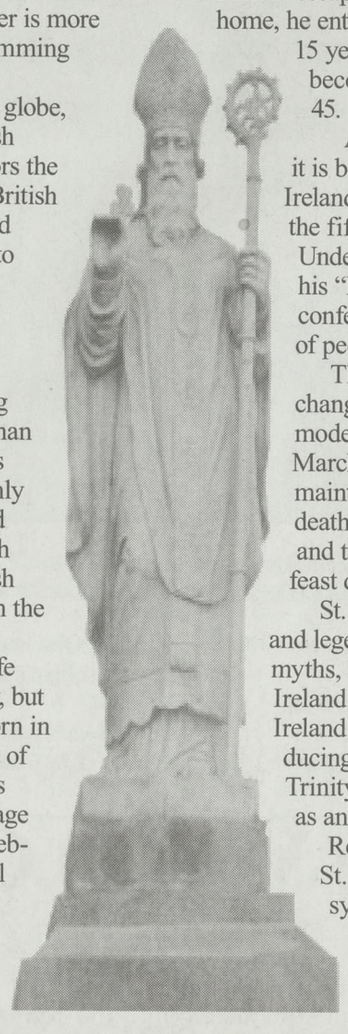
After six years of captivity in Ireland, Patrick escaped and went to Britain. Once home, he entered the church, spending 15 years studying the Bible and becoming a bishop at the age of 45.

Although the date is not clear, it is believed that he returned to Ireland during the second half of the fifth century as a missionary. Understanding their language, in his "Declaration" letter, Patrick confessed to baptizing "thousands of people" in Ireland.

The date of his death has changed from time to time. Some modern historians believe it to be March 17 493 A.D., while others maintain it was 461 A.D. Upon his death, Patrick was declared a saint and the day of his passing as his feast day.

St. Patrick is enveloped in fact and legend. According to popular myths, he is responsible for ridding Ireland of all serpents, although Ireland never had serpents, and introducing the Irish to the concept of the Trinity using the three leave clover as an example.

Regardless of truth or myth, St. Patrick's Day not only symbolizes a departure from Ireland's archaic ideologies and victory of Christianity, but also a day to celebrate the Irish heritage and ancestry.



STATUE OF ST. PATRICK
COURTESY WIKIPEDIA

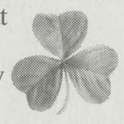
## BLARNEY!

The Blarney Stone is a block of bluestone built into the battlements of Blarney Castle, about 8 km from Cork, Ireland. According to legend, kissing the stone endows the kisser with the gift of gab (great eloquence or skill at flattery). The stone was set into a tower of the castle in 1446. The castle is a popular tourist site in Ireland, attracting visitors from all over the world to kiss the stone and tour the castle and its gardens.

The word blarney has come to mean clever, flattering, or coaxing talk.

## Clover, Shamrock, Same thing Right?

The four leaf clover is a sign of good luck, while the shamrock is also a sign of good luck ,the three leafed shamrock is an irish Christian symbol of the holy trinity. Legend also credits Patrick with teaching the Irish about the concept of the Trinity by showing people the shamrock, a 3-leaved clover, using it to highlight the Christian belief of 'three divine persons in the one God' (as opposed to the Arian belief that was popular in Patrick's time). Whether or not these legends are true, the very fact that there are so many legends about Patrick shows how important his ministry was to Ireland.



## Lack of the Irish

Valley College is not necessarily known for its large Irish demographic and is evident by the lack of St. Patrick's Day events on campus. In the 50s a St. Patrick's Day dance was held annualy on campus complete with punch, cookies, a live band, and green hats. As the decade came to an end, so did the St. Patrick's Day dance. One exception to the rule was in 1968 when the dance was revived and admission was granted only with a student ID card. Valley hasn't held any St.Patrick's Day events since.

**DON'T FORGET TO IRISH** YouTube

**Funny Irish Monkeys**
**Hilarious Irish Band Singing**
**Sea Lion Irish Dance Conest**
**Leprechaun in Alabama**
**Leprechaun(Gimme Da Gold)**

### Did You Know?

St. Patrick's Day always falls in the season of Lent. Some bishops will grant an "indult," or release, from the Friday no-meat observance when St. Patrick's Day falls on a Friday; this is sometimes colloquially known as a "corned-beef indult."When St. Patrick's Day falls on a Sunday, church calendars (though rarely secular ones) move Saint Patrick's Day to the following Monday—and when the 17th falls during Holy Week (very rarely), the observance can be moved to the previous week or all the way to April, after Easter.

### Famous Irish Exports

**Actors**
Colin Farrell
Pierce Brosnan
Maureen O'Hara
Peter O'Toole

**Music**
U2
Damien Rice
Van Morrison
Bob Geldof
The Corrs
Sinead O'Connor

**Comedians**
Conan O'Brien

**Writer/ Poets**
Oscar Wilde
William Butler Yeats
Jonathan Swift
John Millington Synge
James Joyce
C.S. Lewis
Thomas Moore
Frank McCourt
Bram Stoker
Brian Coffey
Sebastian Barry

**Science**
Vincent Barry-discovered treatment for leprosy
Ernest Thomas Sinton Walton-Nobel Prize in Physics
George Johnstone Stoney-atomic physicist

**Sports**
Michael Carruth-olympic gold medal winner/boxing
Dave Finlay-WWE wrestler

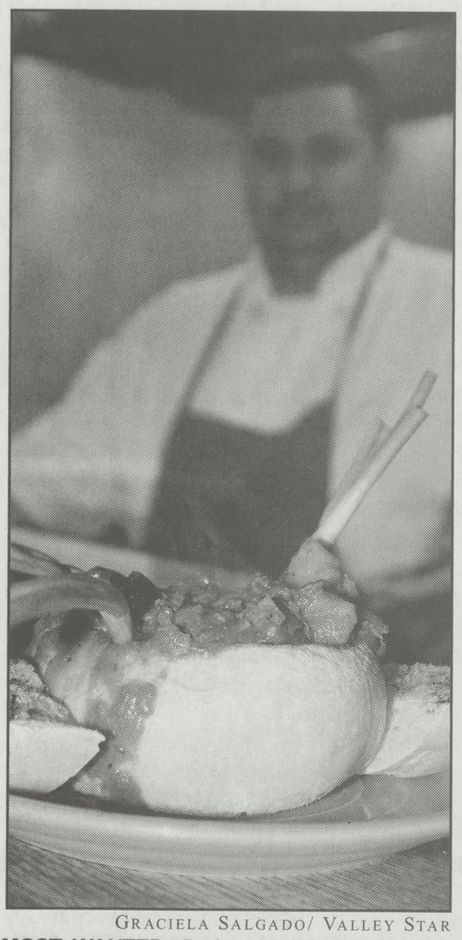
**Dance**
Michael Flatley

## Po-tae-toe, Po-tah-to

ASTRID SEIPELT
NEWS EDITOR

When it comes to celebrating the feast of St. Patrick, Irish food is one of the main things that everyone should consider. Whether it be a meal with family or a raging party with all your friends, the chow can amount to a lot more than food-dyed cookies and green-hued beer. With that in mind, here are some ideas to make your cusine cooking.

Irish Lamb Stew can make a great family meal on St. Patrick's Day, and is easy to make as you just throw all the ingredients in a pot and forget about it. The ingredient of lamb makes this dish a nice change from the fare you may be used to, as lamb is not a popular meat choice in the United States as it is in other countries.



GRACIELA SALGADO/ VALLEY STAR

**MOST WANTED-** During the St. Patrick's Day holiday, the famous Irish Beef Stew is very popular with hungry customers. Chef Santiago Naranjo of Timmy Nolans Tavern in Toluca Lake has been serving this dish there for the last 14 years.

There aren't many people out there who dislike pie, so the traditional dish of Irish Potato Pie will go down well on the dinner table. Containing only potato, bacon, leeks and cheese, it is simple to make and if anyone asks, you have not only authentic Irish food but you're covering almost every food group as well.

A delicious dessert needs to follow every festive meal. An Irish Cream Cheesecake is just the finale you need. It is a little harder to make than other recipes, with a longer preparation time and extended ingredients list, but the hard work put into this sweet dish will make it taste that much better.

All this food needs to be washed down with something, so break out the bubbly and Guinness to mix and make yourself some Black Velvet. If you want to avoid the alcohol, make an St. Patrick's Day Party Punch, with soda, crushed ice and lime sherbert.

Making a St. Patrick's day feast doesn't have to be hard, and with a little work, you don't have to rely on the green food-dye.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION PARANDZEM GRIGORYAN/ VALLEY STAR

## Step Away From The Lucky Charms

BRAD TAYLOR
MANAGING EDITOR

In a world of severe political correctness somehow it remains the standard to relish in over the top Irish stereotypes on a day that is meant to honor a saint.

No one seems to really even notice all the blatant ignorance proudly being put on flyers and posters promoting St. Patrick's Day. Images portray Irishmen as red heads that do nothing but wear green, drink and endlessly search for leprechaun's pot-o-gold.

Truth be told, until recently pubs were closed in Ireland on St. Patrick's Day, and it wasn't until 1995 that the Irish government decided to promote the holiday in an effort to help tourism, because when out of town folk would arrive in Dublin they would expect everyone to be carrying shillelagh sticks and dancing jigs.

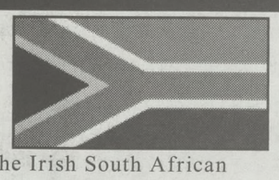
As an Irish-American I get worried when I tell someone of my heritage because people either ask me if I like Guinness and want to get drunk or they spout off lines from "Austin Powers"…"Oh Mr. Leprechaun man we want to get your "Lucky Charms." I have nothing against hearts, stars, horseshoes and clovers but I don't think they should be used to promote ignorance in cereal form.

And just to clarify things for everyone, a four-leaf clover is not the same as a shamrock, clovers signify luck but shamrocks are symbols of the Irish Catholic Holy Trinity. I hope you can see why there might be a little resentment at confusing the two unless you think it is ok to mix up the holy cross with a Christmas tree.

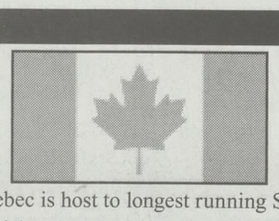
It took Irish-Americans nearly 100 years to gain acceptance in modern America, yet the baggage of cruel jokes and inaccurate portrayal in the media have become almost endearing to people who aren't Irish. Just because there aren't huge radical groups protesting the matter doesn't make it right.

I am the first to wish everyone a safe and fun St. Patrick's Day, but please take a moment from deciding which green shirt to wear to reflect on what the holiday means. And if you really want my pot-o-gold do you really think you can catch me if you are drunk and full of cereal?

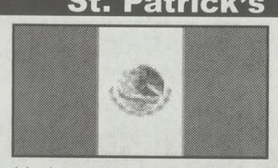
### St. Patrick's Day Around the World



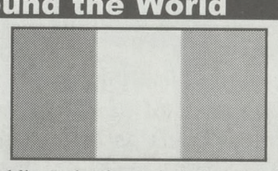
The Irish South African Association will host it's annual St.Patricks Day Dinner Dance. Two Hundred People are expected to the event.



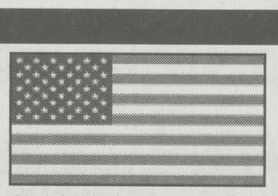
Quebec is host to longest running St. Patrick's Day parade in Canada. The parade has been running since 1759 and the day is a holiday in the providence of Newfoundland and Labrador.



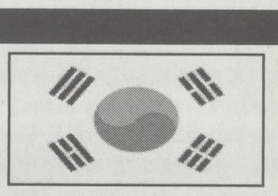
On this day, and on September 12, the Saint Patrick's Battalion (Batallón de San Patricio) is memorialized. It fought as part of the Mexican Army against the United States in the Mexican-American War.



In Dublin, Ireland's capital, St. Patrick's Day is a five-day celebration with carnivals, dance, music and other entertainments that culminate with a parade that is enjoyed by one million Irish citizens.



New York holds the largest St. Patrick's parade in the world that closes Fifth Avenue in Manhattan and fills it up with bands, firefighters, police, cultural clubs with millions of people watching.



A parade is held in Seoul, South Korea's capital, attracting the community with live Korean marching bands and a little taste of Ireland by providing stew and Guinness.

**Stats and additional info courtesy of foods.com, bethany roberts.com and miscellaneous websites**

# SPORTS

## Monarchs Drop Softball vs Cougars

BY JAMES BENNETT
OPINION EDITOR

"Get that baby off the field" hollered the umpire at last Thursday's Valley College softball game. She may as well have been referring to the lady Monarchs and not the fledgling fielder rolling about in a stroller near left field.

The green and gold cut up a sour lemon of a ballgame falling to College of the Canyons Cougars 10-2 in their first Blue Divsion game of the year.

In the jungle, it's safe to place your bets on a lion verses a cougar, but that's apparently not the case on the softball diamond. The Cougars pounced early, putting a runner on base on their first swing. The trend continued as their performance at the plate was gently caressed by Valley's lackluster fielding; such as bobbling or dropping several pop flies within the first couple of innings and polishing the walking shoes of more young ladies than the March of Dimes.

Valley had the advantage in the early innings, only to sacrifice their lead by walking in a Cougar run to tie the game 2-2. The Cougars took off running in the second inning, their lead growing exponentially as two more runs went no place like home off a fierce grounder to center field.

Both teams suffered from chronic batter-ball magnetism. Batters somehow manifested enough gravitational pull to draw pitch after pitch directly to their torsos and legs.

The Monarch fielders, having officially completed their warm-up by the fifth inning improved their game drastically, executing impressive plays such as second baseman Erica Nolasco's diving catch. Unfortunately, the proverbial Jello had just about finished jiggling with the Cougars up 10-2 in the bottom of the sixth.

Overall the game can be written off as learning experience, at least it can in the eyes of assistant coach Tommy Sotelo who stated, "It was a pretty bad game for us, but I like to think that these games are learning tools to use in the long run." Optimistically he continued, "It's not something we should take for granted."

Sotelo's words ring true. Valley's softball vixens hit hard. With a respectable 6-2 record in Western State Conference South league play they're not to be taken lightly. Perhaps spending a few hours at the school of hard knocks will harden their softballs for the playoffs to come.

*The lady Monarchs head north to play Bakersfield Thursday, March 13. Game time is 5 p.m.*

SCOTT MITCHELL / VALLEY STAR

**CLOSE CALL -** Valley infielder Erica Nolasco makes a tag attempt on the Cougars' Jacklyn Ruacho at second base in the Monarchs' 10-2 loss against College of the Canyons on Thursday March 6.

## Baseball Wins Wire-to-Wire Versus Citrus

BY DENNIS ALAMINA
STAFF WRITER

On Saturday at Pike Field the Valley College Monarchs baseball squad took on the Citrus College Owls in a fight to the finish, with the Monarchs coming out on the winning end of a 5-2 score.

The Monarchs used timely hitting and a solid pitching performance by starter Drew Vassil to win Saturday's home contest. Vassil shut down the Owls' offense for five straight innings before giving up two runs, but it was more than enough as Valley scored five runs in four different innings.

Early in the first inning Vassil came out with heat, throwing well over 80 mph and striking out Citrus' first three batters.

With a scoreless game up until the bottom of the third inning the Monarchs got on the scoreboard first when Monarchs second baseman Eddie Urquiza stole a base and shortstop J.P. Hollywood singled to bring in Urquiza.

Monarchs center fielder Angel Nunez singled Hollywood home from third base, bringing another run in for Valley to give them a 2-0 lead.

Going into the bottom of the fourth inning Monarchs first baseman Justin Kaid scored another run when left fielder Mike Calahan ignited the play with a single for the Monarchs now leading 3-0.

Citrus answered in the sixth as Vassil began to slow down his pitching and gave up two runs. The game got a little more tense for both teams with the score now 3-2.

**"Starting pitcher Drew Vassil came out with heat, throwing well over 80 MPH."**

Later in the bottom of the seventh inning the Monarchs continued to score against Citrus with another run from first baseman Dominic Necuechea putting in the Monarchs fifth run over the Owls making it 5-2.

In the eighth and ninth inning Monarchs closer Martin Sarabia did not allow Citrus to answer back and secured the win to improve the Monarchs record to 11-9, 4-4 in the Western State Conference. Urquiza was 3-3 with singles and Sanchez finished 2-2.

Head coach Dave Mallas said, "We came in strong and it took some time to set at a good pace, but overall we played the game smart and we came out very successful with this win."

## Monarchs Shine in First Home Track Meet

BY GRACIELA SALGADO
STAFF WRITER

While the sun kept the valley warm and a breeze balanced out the day, the Monarch track and field team could not have had better conditions to participate in the five-team Western State Conference meet.

SCOTT MITCHELL / VALLEY STAR

**LIFT OFF -** Valley College long-jumper Vanessa Murray heads for a landing during competition at Monarch Stadium, Friday March 7. Murray placed fourth in long jump, fourth in high jump and fifth in javelin throw.

You could see throughout the afternoon that Valley College's athletes (from runners to football players) had come together to host a great event at Monarch Stadium.

"It was one of our toughest challenges, especially against West LA who are ranked second in Southern California. We had a competitive enough spirit that showed in the results," said women's coach Yannick Allain.

All the training the athletes went through was palpable throughout the events. The men's team placed third and the women's team, second.

The men's highlights include Andre Davis, who finished first in the men's 100-meter dash with a time of 11.25 seconds and 200-meter dash at 22.89 seconds. Also, Andrew Salg, who placed first in the 3000-meter run with a time 9 minutes 18.01 seconds.

Davis, Fredy Santizo, Elvon Mack and Savoy Rhyne placed first in the 4 x 100-meter relay with a time of 43.82 seconds.

Men's coach Francois Wolman said, "The men are pretty competitive in track, but we need more people to cover the field events. I'm really happy with the results."

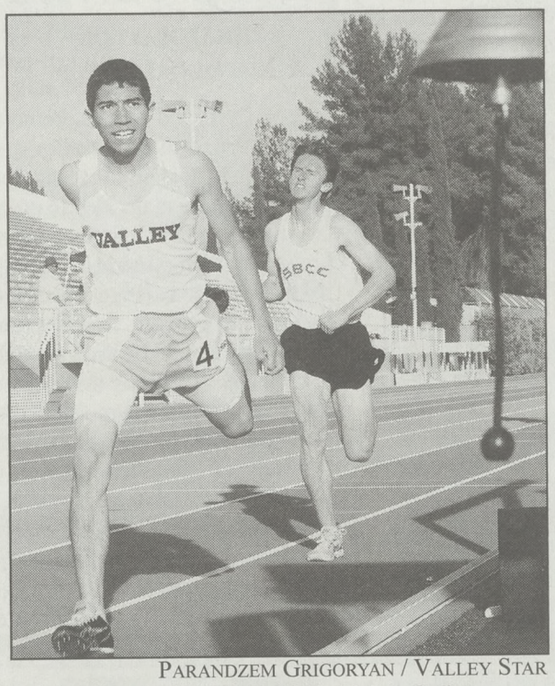
On the women's side Sylvia Alboniga rose to the occasion, placing first in high jump clearing the bar at 4-feet 10-inches and 100-meter hurdles at 15.24 seconds. Erica Shelby also performed well, placing first in shot-put with a distance of 9.79 meters and hammer throw with 101.10.

Alboniga, Mekka White-Edwards, Lawson Gabrielle and Vanessa Murray got first place in the women's 4 x 400-meter relay finishing at 4:33.35.

To add more life to these competitive events, Paul Sabolic, Valley's Hall of Fame president, and Foundation Director Raul Castillo organized "The Hall of Fame BBQ."

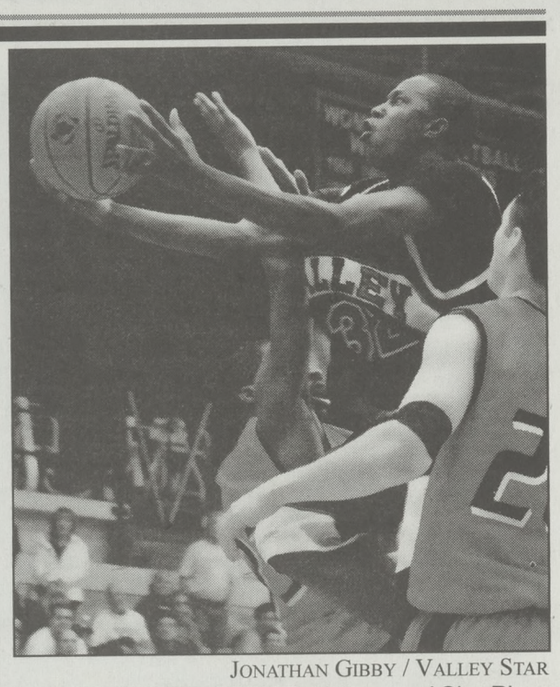
"It showcased our new recruiting patio. Hector Salazar and Angelica did a fabulous job with the food prep. It was a great success," said athletic director Chuck Ferrero.

*The Monarchs will next travel to the Northridge Invitational at Cal State University Northridge on Saturday March 15. The meet starts at 9 a.m.*



PARANDZEM GRIGORYAN / VALLEY STAR

**LOOKING AT FIRST PLACE -** Valley College runner Paulo Anzaldo leans near the finish line of the men's 800-meter dash. The meet was held Friday March 7 at Monarch Stadium.



JONATHAN GIBBY / VALLEY STAR

**SPLITTING THE DEFENSE -** Valley guard Gino Riney (32) drives the ball to the hoop late in the second half in the Monarchs' playoff loss at Ventura College.

## Final Loss No Detour for Monarch Men

BY ERIC L. PATTEN & PAUL OLDEN
SPORTS EDITOR & PHOTO EDITOR

In less time than it would take to phone in a pizza, the Valley College men's hoopsters lost their lead, their season and likely their appetite.

Watson

But their hard-fought loss in the final seconds of the Western State Conference south regional semi-finals to No. 4 seed Ventura College, capped a season of Monarch successes.

"I thought it was a good season because it was a turnaround year for us," said head coach Virgil Watson. "We went from not making the playoffs and being under .500 to having one of the highest RPIs [ratings percentage index] in the state and a solid win-loss percentage against good teams."

The big wins for the Monarchs (18-12) included a 100-94 regular season triumph over Ventura (26-6) and a 76-73 victory against Oxnard (17-14) in the Santa Barbara City College Tournament in December.

In the playoffs, they routed Long Beach 82-65, before facing Ventura again.

With the Ventura College Athletic Events Center scoreboard reading 13.7 seconds and Valley nursing a three-point lead, it seemed very much like one of those NCAA tournament games you see every year: a 13 seed versus a four seed, with the underdog sucker punching the favorite in the first half and clinging to life in the final 20 minutes.

All of that followed script. The Monarchs took advantage of their superb guard play, out worked the Pirates and had they managed to shed less than 14 seconds somewhere else in the game, Valley would have completed the upset.

But Ventura's Prince Abidoye preferred an alternate ending.

With the game in the balance, Abidoye nailed a tying three-pointer and the Monarchs were bounced in overtime 90-79.

"Basically, we were 14 seconds away from being in a regional final," said Watson. "There's nothing we can do about those last 14 seconds, unfortunately we can't get them back. But it was a good year."

Despite losing seven sophomores, including team MVP candidates Germel Coleman, Gino Riney and Shaun Johnson, Watson is pleased with the current level of the program.

"Now we're on the plus side and looking at a situation that we've become better and we can get to the state championship," the second-year coach said. "I think we're close."

Captains Ron Holden and Demetrius Malone and guards Shon Williams and Codie Kemp also played their final game in green and gold.

"Those will be big losses, but we've got players coming in, good guys that want to come here based on what last year's sophomore group has done and based on some of the freshman we have coming back," said Watson. "Our sophomore captains were instrumental in turning the program around."

In Coleman, Riney and Johnson, the Monarchs are losing a combined 60 percent of their 82.1 points per game. Still, Watson is confident the newcomers will mesh.

"We just have to get these guys coming back and the new guys in it, so we have a foundation to recruit some more athletes and we can get to that next level," he said.

**THE NEXT TWO**

**Baseball**
3/13 (Thu) vs Pierce 2 p.m.
3/15 (Sat) @ Glendale 1 p.m.

**Softball**
3/13 (Thu) @ Bakersfield 5 p.m.
3/16 (Sun) Double Header @ Fullerton, Cerritos 1 p.m.

**Swimming & Diving**
3/21 (Fri) @ Santa Monica 2:30 p.m.
3/29 (Sat) @ Citrus TBA

**Track & Field**
3/15 (Sat) @ CSUN 9 a.m.
3/22 (Sat) @ Cerritos 9 a.m.

## 'Bubble'

*continued from page 2*

workers.

California's InkaVote Plus voting system inflamed the issue further due to the "overlapping" of candidates from different parties on the ballot. Bubbles eight, nine, and ten were shared by Democratic and American Independent candidates. Meaning, unless the voter selected which party's primary they wished to partake of, it was impossible to decipher intent.

In total, more than 60,000 DTS ballots found themselves in question; after analyzing each ballot to discern the voter's intent more than 12,000 ballots remained disenfranchised.

"Nothing undermines civic participation and public faith more than when voters believe their vote does not count," said Sen. Mark Ridley-Thomas.

In an effort to rectify the errors of the February primary, Bowen hopes to modernize poll worker communication. She asserted that had poll workers been able to communicate instantly with one another, the problem would have been easily resolved.

"We have no way to rapidly communicate with our precincts, and that was fine in 1777, . . . but in an era when we're all wirelessly connected, we have to catch up with the times," she said. "I want to make sure we're making progress, not paperwork."

## 'Budgets'

*continued from page 1*

over the last three years, but the tutoring labs never received the funds to pay the new wages.

The Writing Center has been forced to close its doors from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. on a daily basis. The Learning Center will reduce staff, which will restrict the range of subjects they tutor on, and the Math Lab had 36 tutor hours cut.

"We don't have enough tutors in a given hour because we can't afford to pay them," said Teresa Sutcliffe, associate professor and director of the Math Lab. "Last semester we were offering workshops for students, but this semester we haven't done any."

Aracellys Tijerino, a psychology major says she uses the Writing Center four times in the semester and would like more service hours.

"I came from another country, and people like me need [the Writing Center]; we cannot live without it," said Tijerino. "We need more money because we need it open for a longer time. I get my lunch break at one and I want to take advantage of that, but they are closed."

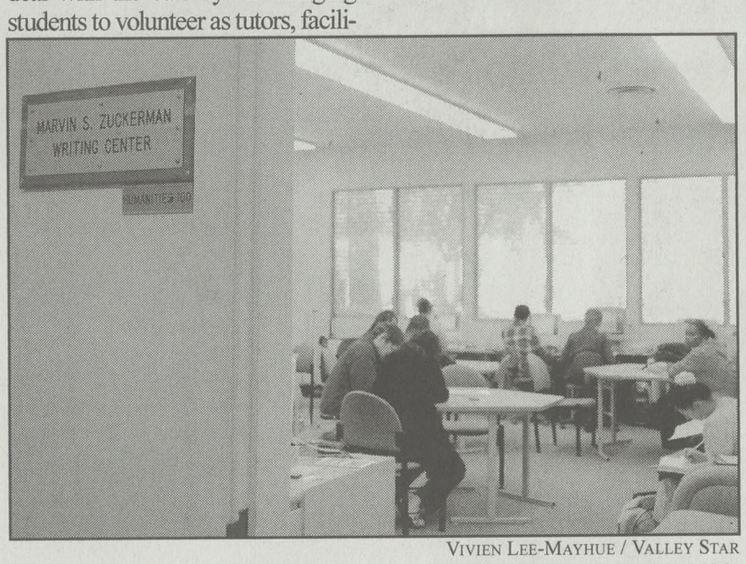
Melody Maoussanejad, a Valley student, agrees, "I wish they would open earlier."

According to the Office of Research and Planning, students who use the center on a consistent basis do on average 11 percent better in terms of success, which is the difference of a grade. There is also a retention rate of 90 percent for students who use it compared to 82 percent for those who don't, which translates into money for the school.

The Writing Center is trying to deal with the cuts by encouraging students to volunteer as tutors, facilitate more workshops, and encourage students to use the program's online tutoring.

Many of the directors are looking to the next fiscal year, beginning July 1. However, for Yasuda, the prospects look grim.

"I'm more worried about next year, because this is all going to filter down, and it's going be even worse next year than it is this year," she said. "You are talking about 10 percent this year, but if they are going to cut another 10 percent next year, we're in serious trouble."




VIVIEN LEE-MAYHUE / VALLEY STAR

**WRITING FOR SUCCESS -** The writing center, located in Humanities 100, serves approximately 50 students per day, but is currently at risk of having its budget cut. Their brochure states that students who consistently use the center succeed at a rate of 11 percent higher than those who do not.

## 'Speak Up'

*continued from page 1*

also helps educate parents about this issue and that the theme resonates with all those who have gone through similar experiences.

"I felt victimized for a long time," Anigren said. "I think that as a child, when you're physically and sexually abused, you believe that it is your fault, unless somebody helps you. And I didn't get that help. My parents didn't believe me or didn't know how to deal with it, so it wasn't talked about."

Anigren is open about sharing her story in order to help others, and confesses that her abusive childhood led her through dark years in her adult life. But instead of continuing on the same path, she opted to use her journey as inspiration to pick herself up.

"I'm hoping to be an outlet or someone that people who have experienced [abuse] can look up to and say 'she has dealt with that, I like the way she's living her life, and I really want to get there,'" she said.

She moved to the San Fernando Valley from San Francisco four years ago with $200, living in her car, and suffering from addiction. But now she is proud to say she changed her life by ending her addiction, going to school, and having her own apartment.

"I drank every weekend. I did that for a year, and when I stopped drinking, I was smoking [marijuana]," Anigren said. "I realize this is something someone could be doing and that's not the right way to do [things]."

The author hopes the book brings her fame, not for the sake of being recognized, but to reach out to more people. She also wants to donate some of the profits of her book to shelters for the abused.

"I would like to go on school tours, maybe talk about [the book], or have seminars," she said.

For the moment, Anigren is focused on getting her book published and illustrated, and calls on Valley students who are interested in helping with the illustration to contact her.

**"I think that as a child, when you're sexually abused, you believe that it is your fault, unless somebody helps you. "**

*-Twanya Anigren*

Although she is interested in writing a second book, Anigren won't pen another unless it comes out the same way her first book came out – from her heart.

"'Be Cool, Speak up' is deeper than just saying "speak up," said Anigren. "It's about healing yourself; it's about letting go of the person you think you might be because of the abuse."

## 'DSPS'

*continued from page 1*

materials are more easily available to disabled students and teachers.

"A lot of times a teacher will have to come in and request a video be captioned," Nordberg said. "This [new] way, a majority of videos that most teachers or instructors use will already be available. When we compiled the list we made sure all the videos that we captioned have been used in the last two years."

Titles were chosen in studies from all of the departments at Valley and the captioning is in progress with a third party broker. Loving said he expected to have all the titles finished during the spring semester.

## 'Discussion'

*continued from page 1*

and help," including career tech programs, but neither he nor the other district representatives who attended the meeting gave many specifics regarding what students and employees can expect in the next school year.

While the district's economic problems were much discussed, both Drummond and Barrera took time to explain the process as well as why the decision was made to choose an acting president before hiring Wieder's permanent replacement.

It's so late in the year and . . . there's been a huge number of searches this year in California . . . So, this is not a good year for us to be going out fishing late," Drummond explained. "We decided that we would use an acting president to plug the time between when Dr. Wieder leaves and the new person arrives and that way, we would . . . get the advertising out right at the very beginning of the season, so to speak."

The acting president, who, according to Barrera will have the opportunity to apply for the permanent position, will begin a month before Wieder is set to retire.

"We hope to preserve some of the continuity that the committee members really felt was important," Barrera explained. "That the new president know some of [Wieder's] priorities as well as your own priorities, with regards to shared governance, with regards to some of the activities that you have – the bond program. So, they wanted to make sure that the new person gets onboard and actually gets first-hand knowledge from Dr. Wieder."

Another reason behind the district's decision to hire an interim president for Valley is due to the fact that there are numerous vacancies within the district. According to Barrera, searches are underway to find presidents for Southwest College and L.A. City College. Mission College just finished their own search, which started in 2005.

The district will be advertising the permanent position throughout July and August and Barrera expects that Wieder's permanent replacement will start on Jan. 1.

PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

**CONFIRMING THE WORST FEARS -** As he describes the scope of looming budget cuts, LACCD Chancellor Mark Drummond gestures to Valley College staff and faculty during his second annual town meeting in the cafeteria conference room March 4.

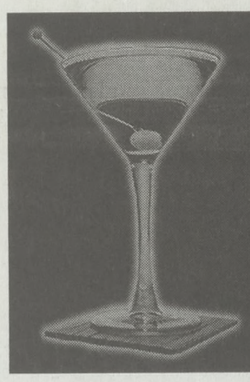
## 'Sessions'

*continued from page 2*

techniques for infants, to queries about when their toddler should begin talking.

"I try to just move with their questions and what's going on in their lives, and some of them I've known for months," said Mary Lopez, an associate professor of child development, who supervises the Wednesday and Friday sessions. "You're just seeing this little window today, but they've been coming here for quite awhile."

Before bringing their child in for the first time, Valley students or anyone else interested in participating should reserve a space by calling the Family Resource Center at (818) 778-5528, or emailing Kathleen Weislein at weislekm@lavc.edu.

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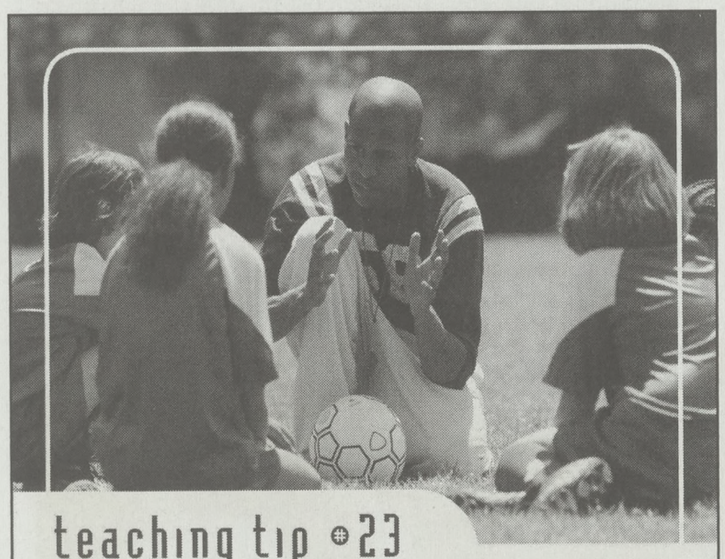

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# GALLERY

**STARTING LINE** – Members of the Female Elite start the 23rd Los Angeles Marathon on March 2.

**WINNERS' CIRCLE** – After completing the race, winners Tatiana Aryasova, left, and Laban Moiben stand proud with former Los Angeles Police Chief Bernard Parks.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JONATHAN GIBBY / VALLEY STAR

**MEDIA FRENZY** – Members of the media swarm Tatiana Aryasova after she finished the race first. Along with winning a car and $20,000, she also won the Banco Popular Challenge, an added bonus of $100,000 for being the first runner to cross the finish line.

# City of Los Angeles Marathon XXIII

BY JONATHAN GIBBY
ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

On March 2, Los Angeles streets were clogged by a different kind of traffic. More than 25,000 people gathered for the 23rd City of Los Angeles Marathon. The 26.2-mile course started at Universal Studios in Hollywood and ended downtown at Fifth and Flower. Participants passed local landmarks, including the Hollywood Bowl, the Walk of Fame, the Coliseum, the 6th Street Bridge and the U.S. Bank Tower.

Elite athletes from around the world competed for more than $225,000 in cash prizes. Tatiana Aryasova of Russia finished with a time of 2:29:09, winning both the women's event and the $100,000 bonus for the first man or women to finish. The women had a statistically competitive head start of 19 minutes, 38 seconds. Laban Moiben of Kenya had the best time of the day and won the men's event in a time of 2:13:50.

The majority of those who participated in the event did not have cash prizes and course records on their minds. For most, the act of completing a marathon is about self-esteem and the ability to overcome challenges.

**VOLUNTEERS** – After completing the race, runners were greeted by volunteers covering them in metallic blankets to help keep their body temperature from falling too fast. These volunteers from Nativity Parish in El Monte hand out bananas and fruit drinks to exhausted runners.

**WHEEL MIRACLES** – Prior to the start of the runners, Saul Mendoza crosses the finish line, winning the wheelchair race.